

Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Meeting November 3, 2006

1. Discussion of the draft GRSMMP Plan Objectives/Purpose Statement and Goals, and strawman Outline developed from conference call discussions prior to the meeting. While the GRSMMP is an implementation action in the Governors' Action Plan, the ideas on what is should be and help accomplish are still evolving. The draft objectives, goals, and strawman outline provide a basis for discussion. The addition of a statement of need was suggested. Attached is a new version of the purpose, goals and outline, and a statement of need was added. Questions and issues raised during the discussions are also attached.

2. Science Assessment Workshop in Support of GRSMMP – Dec 5-6, 2006. The workshop objectives are to identify the scientific and technical information currently available to support the GRSMMP, and to characterize the state of knowledge relative to sediment in the Gulf region. Examples of the information to be discussed include availability of calibrated sediment budgets, coastal transport process models, and regional scale databases/maps of sand and other sediment resources. These products do not currently exist in a comprehensive format for the entire Gulf of Mexico. However, sharing information about current availability and potential linking of this information across the region will provide useful foundation information for the GRSMMP. Further refinements to the direction and content of the GRSMMP will help determine relative levels of effort necessary for better sediment management. The workshop will be held at the USGS Coastal and Watershed Studies facility in St. Petersburg, Florida. The states identified appropriate individuals from their agencies and universities to participate, along with Federal participants, largely from USGS, MMS and the Corps.

3. Jan/Feb GRSMMP Workshop. A workshop to define the purpose, scope and process for completing the GRSMMP is planned for early in 2007. On the last team call, the states recommended piggy backing this meeting with another that many of the State Alliance Restoration team reps are likely to attend, thus reducing the number of out of state trips. Suggestions for meetings included the MMS Information sharing meeting (Jan., Kenner, LA), and the CREST beneficial uses of dredged material meeting (Feb. New Orleans). Additionally, Alabama and Mississippi are planning the next State-sponsored Conservation and Restoration group meeting in early March – potentially March 6,7,8. Consensus from the states was that the GRSMMP workshop should be scheduled to piggy-back on the AL-MS meeting. The states will begin coordinating on the location and it was proposed that the States and Restoration team meeting be 1 ½ days, followed by the workshop focusing on the GRSMMP for 1 ½ days. During the next few conference calls, efforts will focus on workshop objectives, agenda, invitees.

4. Other

Two reports available that may be relevant to the GRSMMP (Randy Runnels (FL)): 1) "Dredged Material Management Strategy for Tampa Bay," (Jacksonville District Report, July 2000); 2) "Tampa Bay Dredged Hole Habitat Assessment Project"

(Apr 2005), prepared by the Tampa Bay Dredged Hole Habitat Assessment Advisory Team- that characterizes sediment characteristics, fish use, water quality, and discusses whether to fill or keep the holes. Randy brought a copy of each and offered to share them with the group as discussions about the GRSMMP proceed.

California Sediment Management Master Plan – Larry Parson mentioned efforts in CA that may be of interest to the Gulf States in shaping the GRSMMP, and said he'd provide the website for this effort – it is <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/CSMW/sedimentmasterplan.htm> .

5. Next Meeting/Conference Call – November 17, 2:00 central - focus is on Jan/Feb workshop.